

PROBLEMS FOR 'SUN' READERS TO SOLVE

Capt. Frank Roy Sets a Very Neat Trap and Catches Some Bridge Players.

FINE PLAYS AT CHECKERS

Problem No. 347, by Capt. Frank Roy, had a very neat trap in it. One who probably nine out of ten persons would insist was not a trap at all even if it was pointed out to them. How many would see it if it came up at the card table in the course of a rubber it is not difficult to guess. Here is the distribution:

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A

There are no trumps and Z is in the lead. Y and Z want seven tricks out of eight against any defense. There are only four in sight.

The only solution is for Z to lead two winning clubs, so as to give Y two spades. This leads to the foundation for meeting any defense that A and B may have to make in the way of discarding the tricks that are yet to come. Of course B has discarded two spades, and has been careful to keep the smallest one.

The lead for the third trick is the discarding of spades. It is clear that Z will be back in the lead presently on those spades. A must keep the club, so he discards a heart. Y also discards a heart. B wins the trick and Z allows him to lead another spade. A and Y both discard hearts. When Z wins the third round of spades with the ace, Y lets go his last heart.

What is A to discard? That solves the problem.

The correct opening does not solve this problem unless Y discards spades. If he lets a heart on either of the club leads, the object of B keeping the four of spades is at once apparent. Suppose Y discards two hearts.

When Z leads the small spade B wins the trick with a big one and returns the four. This forces Z to put on the ace, so as to keep Y from being forced into the lead, and after that there is only one more trick for Y and Z, the ace of diamonds. If Z allows Y to win the return of the spade, it is the same.

If Y discards only one heart on the club, whether on the first trick or the second does not matter. B's having kept his smallest spade defeats the solution, because if Y has only one spade left when Z leads the ace, B will duck the trick and leave Y in the lead. This gives A four tricks.

Z must lead the spade for the third trick. If he leads either of the red suits, A must make three heart tricks, one diamond and one club. If Z leads the ace of spades for the third round of spades, Z makes his winning club, Y having discarded three hearts.

In the meantime what has A discarded?

An original diamond opening from Z's hand will not solve, because Y must win the trick. Then Z must let B win two spade tricks or give A two hearts and a club, because the moment the ace of diamonds is in the out of Y's hand, A can discard the queen. This discard was overlooked by those who fell into the real trap of the problem, the original spade lead.

Instead of giving Y two spade tricks at once, a number led the small spade and made B win it with the seven and lead A's heart. This makes it easy, as A has to discard three times, and Y gives up the hearts.

If B refuses to win the first spade lead it is just as easy for Y and Z, because another small spade forces him to win the trick, and again A has to discard three times.

For B to win the first trick, Z must not let Y win this trick, so he puts off the ace of diamonds until he has a winning club. Y discarding a diamond, he must follow with a heart if A has discarded two hearts.

This will solve the problem, because a club, but that would give A a diamond discard. A defense is the diamond lead, which forces Y to give A a trick in the suit, then or later.

Correct solutions from: Herbert C. Hill, O. H. Boston, Henry Anderson, J. C. Hume, Frank S. Ruser, E. W. White, C. E. Johnson, D. A. W. J. Warren, Miles M. W. Jacobs, Jr., Keynote, C. C. Mankowski, Marie Thompson, George H. Glover, E. W. Trimble, D. Perry, W. P. W. and W. O. Johnson. All the others started with the small spade.

Here is another instructive situation by the same composer, which is the forerunner of a series of problems, some of the hardest kind in the problem line, which are in preparation by four leading cranks. There will probably be nothing left of the bonus list when they are through with these four rounds. In the meantime this is not so hard:

BRIDGE PROBLEM No. 359.

By Capt. Frank Roy.

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A
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There are no trumps and B is in the lead.

PLAY OF ACE QUEEN AT ROYAL AUCTION

Ignorance of One Little Piece of Tactics Causes Loss of Many Tricks.

At one table Z went game on this hand and no trumps, simply by the correct management of this ace queen position. Upon winning the first heart trick he led the small diamond from his own hand; from the ace to the queen.

Starting to lose his hand, Z was king, A put it right on and led the king of hearts as before. Dummy won this with the king and led a small diamond, the ace dropping the queen and the queen killing the jack, so that all the remaining diamonds in Y's hand took tricks. Then Y led the queen and another spade, making three more in this suit. Three by cards and the game.

There is no stopping this result, no matter what A and B do. If A does not lead the heart, Z will lead the heart and dummy wins the trick with the queen. An immediate return of the diamond and the ace must kill the king if B follows suit. The third round of hearts is Z's.

But dummy still has two reentries, the king of hearts and queens of spades. All that A and B could have made was three club tricks, but that does not pay the game; they make them instead of the hearts, or a little of each.

That is all in the play. Here is a hand that is an interesting example of the modern style of bidding more than anything else. It was No. 7 in the same game as the hand just given. The dealer sat south.

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Z bid one heart, which A passed. Y denied the hearts by bidding a spade, which B passed. Now Z was in a position to bid by going no trumps, and when A passes again Y denies the no trumps by bidding two clubs, which held the trump in a little slam, the top score on this deal.

Here is Y's view of the situation when he bids the clubs. If his partner's tricks are in one suit, and only one trump he may have only one in hearts, and the queen jack ten of spades may be all in one hand against Y's suit, as Z denied it.

Played at no trumps at every other table it is worth five odd and 20 aces; total, with the game at 125, just 205 points. Now Z was in a position to bid a little slam.

Here is an example of the other style of bidding, which is not modern, but which shows the players can be very clever when they do not give due consideration to the bids that are made by others. These are the hands of the game, and all the past losses are forgotten. This shot did not come off. The hand was No. 27, dealer sitting south, and it is from the same game as the others.

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Z, A and Y all passed the bid up to fourth hand, who bid a heart. Z then declared his best suit, diamonds, which encouraged Y to bid two spades when A refused to pass. B then passed, waiting to see what his partner would say to the new development.

In order to deny the spades Z felt called upon to bid two diamonds, which A passed, so when it got round to B he doubled the three diamonds in preference to going on with the hearts and set the diamond suit for 200. He could have made three hearts, but not the game.

The fault in this bidding is evident. The only player at the table that has a bid of any sort is B and Z should have mentioned the diamonds. The only result of the declaration is to tempt his partner into a bad bid.

Here is a hand in which the same force work the other way, and had bidding drives the opponents into a whole lot of trouble. The king is the only possible one to win the game on the hand.

There is something that has been hammered into the readers of these articles by both present and example it is the folly of overcalling a no trump contract with a suit that cannot be made. It is possible to go game against a no trump, while at the same time the no trump cannot go game against it.

In spite of the evidence and logic that can be brought to bear upon the subject there seems to be a large number of persons who will not or who cannot be convinced that this is a losing game.

Some very good players hold that it is all right to take a chance on a good score, and to the others under the microscope others will go just as far with the minor suit if it is stronger than the major suit that would justify the same. The weak hand of the game of New York is that neither bid is justified, so that the major suit cannot excuse the minor.

This hand was No. 11, in the same game as the preceding one, dealer sitting south:

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Z passed, so did A, but Y went no trump. At one table B kept still and held the no trump down to two by cards, having the diamonds over the majority of tables B allowed himself to be carried away by the four honors in one hand and the ace queen of another suit, with a doubt, a good queen in a third suit. This looks like a big hand and B led two clubs on it. The moment he makes that bid he is lost.

Z, who was in a position to lead the ace, now bid his diamonds over the two clubs, as he could not take suit and did not feel justified in passing with such elements in his own cards and his partner bidding no trump. He led the king of hearts and the ace of clubs.

Y did not care to struggle for eleven tricks in diamonds to win the game, especially with the prospect of losing two tricks in each of the black suits, so he took a chance on a bid of two hearts. Of course B overcalled with more clubs, but Z asserted the heart bid and when A said nothing B was afraid to go as high as four clubs, so he led the king of his long suit.

The consequence was that Y made five by cards on the hand and this was the only instance in which a game was made on this deal. Winning the first trick with the ace of clubs Y gave dummy a ruff, put himself in with a trump and gave dummy another ruff with his last club.

A small diamond from dummy allowed Y to regain the lead and the ace and

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♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A	♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 A
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"COMEDIE HUMAINE" AS PLAYED AT POLICE SALE

All the life of this our city passed in review last week at the largest sale of unclaimed property which the Police Department has ever held.

Out of the dark basement where lot after lot went to the huddle of bidders came a wealth of tragedy, the silent song of woe, the laughs of happy children, the echo of despair.

Goods abandoned, goods lost, things which were not wanted, were under the hammer in 440 lots and now are scattered all over the metropolis once more, ready to begin new histories. Who knows but they may drift back again, some of them, for the next time the property clerk exposes his wares at public vendue?

The laws of the State require that goods found in the streets shall be kept for six months if unclaimed. Then the finder is notified and if within ten days he fails to ask for what he in all honesty delivered to the Police Department the property is turned over to the auctioneer. It is so with articles once "proceeds of crime," which are held as long as they may be useful as exhibits in the courts and finally sold if no owner comes for them within the time specified. All returns from these official auction sales go to the police pension fund.

Every lot which went under the hammer last Tuesday was in itself a slice of life, a part of the never ending comedy humaine. Even the buyers, second-hand dealers from the East, men from out of Harlem, from the Bronx, avid faced seekers after bargains, felt the thrill of adventure and speculation and mystery which goes with the vending of the properties of the never ceasing dramas of New York.

It would take long to delve into the records to bring each tale to light. Here, for instance, is the Romance of the Forty and One Stickpins, which adornments stuck many in their time. They belonged to men strangers far from home, who had expended their \$5 on them so that they might buy their tickets for their return to the farm. How many sad accounts of hard luck have been poured out over those glass headed ornaments, which originally were worth about 25 cents each and have had expended over ten thousands of dollars worth of talk? Brassy in looks and with a cold and gassy stare, they were all sold in a bunch for \$14, for the bidders who crowded about the high platform were all gambling on the probability of one at least of the forty-one not being a wire-worm.

The mark "P. D." is all right on a receipt, but as a token of authenticity it does not go far in jewelry. The jewelry and watches which are offered while they go in to collect show on it sales days. It is easy to unstrap the extra tires from the waiting machines and to trundle them away.

Lifting fire extinguishers out of automobiles is another favorite pastime of the collectors for the Police Department. Some of the trunks are sold, and horns are often easily detachable. Some connoisseurs take the whole machine, others leave the chassis and merely take the extra wheels. The easygoing habit some persons have of leaving their bicycles unattended while they go in to collect shows on it sales days. It is easy to unstrap the extra tires from the waiting machines and to trundle them away.

The ways of the metropolis show forth in the piles of trunks and valises sold unopened and unopened to buyers who are willing to take all kinds of chances on their containing something worth while. The hotel swindler is largely represented in this assemblage of luggage, filled with old clothes, waste paper and occasional bricks to give substance. Some of the trunks are heaped with laundry finery and rumpled lingerie.

Here the unwary stranger at the railroad station is represented. Mr. Lott came in from one of our leading suburbs to meet his wife and take her to the theatre. He was to have put on his evening attire, for here is the whole suit, with the gleaming waistcoat and the still crisp shirt and the white lawn tie and even the gloves immaculate with the facing of black. Too bad that he left the suit case on the floor of the Grand Central station just for a minute while he bought an evening paper and looked about to see if no more.

One of the finest assortment of "leathers" ever offered was sold. They were gathered by eminent dips working the ratters. That is to say, by the sons of predatory thieves, who had collected purses and pocketbooks from passengers on our leading street cars.

Most of the purses belonged to women who held them listlessly in their hands in crowded cars. Thieves stole them from their pockets, and the women were left with the empty purses, while the few dimes and nickels were turned over to the property clerk, who sent them in due course to the pension fund. Here also were worn work bill books taken by stealth from the inside coat pockets of absent minded gentlemen.

"Big parson," the bill books heard some one say. "Excuse me for joking you." That was the last thing they heard before the swift hand of the pal of some police stranger slipped them away from their moorings. The bill books of them was sold en bloc and who knows but what in the hidden recesses of one of them some lucky bidder found a \$100 bill which escaped the vigilance of the police?

Among the Police Department wares there was an enormous stock of barrel staves, some heavy, some light. It would have taken half a dozen men to another trump cleared them up, leaving B in the lead. All he could do was to go on with the clubs and Y used his last trump to get in and make the rest of the hand. The king of hearts, the king of diamonds and the ace of clubs was the result.

This shows 149 points plus, instead of the paltry 20 points that B had by the trump. The no trump and all because B imagined he would score four honors in one hand, in a suit which never was the trump and in which he never took a trick.

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